



H.R. 2943: The Providing Benefits Information in Spanish and Tagalog for Veterans and Families Act

Background:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) produces fact sheets on the many care, benefits, and services available to eligible veterans because of their service in the armed forces. These fact sheets are written in English and only sporadically available in Spanish or other languages that veterans might speak. What's more, only some of these fact sheets are available to veterans, their families, their caregivers, and other stakeholders – like Congress and veterans service organizations – online. This can create barriers to care for all veterans, including those with limited English proficiency. That includes Filipino veterans who fought alongside American soldiers in World War II and are eligible to receive certain VA benefits.

The Providing Benefits Information in Spanish and Tagalog for Veterans and Families Act would require VA to make all fact sheets available in English, Spanish, and Tagalog (the native language of the Philippines). It would also require VA to make fact sheets available via a single, clearly identifiable website that is easily accessible to veterans and the general public. The bill would further require VA to report on the Department's plan to increase the accessibility of information to those with limited English proficiency. This would ensure that the entirety of our veteran population - as well as their families, caregivers, and advocates - are able to easily access and comprehend important information about VA benefits no matter what their native language might be.

The Message:

- Our military and veteran population is increasingly diverse.
- We must identify and break down barriers to care for veterans and ensure that those who bravely served our country have the information they need about the services and supports available to them.
- The Providing Benefits Information in Spanish and Tagalog for Veterans and Families Act would ensure that veterans and their families can access important information about their VA benefits.